Scott. II–27—100,000—21-5-48.

Food (1949) Department.

MS SERIES.

G.O. No. 244

244

Dated 11-3-49

11-3-49

[Despatch Abstract.]

Food position of Madras Presidency Past and Present
speech by H M (Law) in Legislative Council on
1 3 49 Papers recorded.

FOOD POSITION OF MADRAS PRESIDENCY PAST AND PRESENT

Speech delivered in the Madras Legislative Council
on the 9th March 1949.

By THE HON. Dr. T.S.S. RAJAN.

Minister for food.

The Madras Province has always been deficit in foodgrains. The production was short of the requirements to the extent of about 5 lakhs of tons even before the war. If the normal rate of increase in population which is 1.1 per cent per annum is also taken into account, the deficit is correspondingly increased. It should also be mentioned in this connextion that our production did not reach the normal in any year subsequent to 1944-45. On the other hand it has been definitely poor during the last 2 years owing to the failure of the monsoon in several districts. Our deficit has therefore considerably exceeded the pre-war deficit of 5 lakhs. Against this deficit, the Province has been importing varying quantities of foodgrains from year to year since controls were introduced, with reference to the allotments made by the Government of India and its own prdduction position in each year. The average quantity thus imported during the 5 years ending 1947 - 48 , i.e., during the period of controls amounted to 352,500 tons consisting of 171,900 tons of rice, 84, 700 tons of millets and 95,900 tons of wheat and wheat products. It will be observed that the average annual imports during these years were very much less than the imports during the normal pre-war years. If we have been able to carry on with such a small import in spite of the increase in population that has taken place, it was due to 2 factors --

(1) the carry over which was available with producers and others during the time when controls were introduced and

(2) the restriction on consumption that was imposed in this Province from 1943 by a system of rationing.

The carry over is all practically exhausted and we are leading a hand to mouth existence.

This year's situation is therefore depressing as our monsoons have failed in several districts in two successive years. The production, this year, of both rice and millets according to the estimates that could be made at present is less than the normal by 6 lakhs tons of rice and 4 lakhs tons of millets, giving the total shortage of 10 lakhs of tons. It has been calculated that this Province would require help to the extent of 7.6. lakhs tons of foodgrains to carry it through to the end of October next with a ration of 12 oz., in both the statutory and rural areas. My object in giving out all these figures in detail is to impress upon the hon. Members the gravity of the food position as revealed by the statistics.

Another criticism often raised is why we should follow the policy laid down by the Government of India in regard to these matters. The simple answer is are we in a position to manage without the help of the Government of India Almost all the producer countries are members of the World Food Council and no province in India has got the necessary status to negotiate with the World Food Council for supply of foodgrains. Even if we have got the status we cannot command the exchange facilities required for such imports. It has been asked when Central Provinces have not undertaken intensive procurement or rationing, why should we ? We

We should never forget the fact that Central Provinces is a surplus Provinces whereas ours is a deficit Province. A surplus Province can afford to take risks and if things do not move according to expectations, nothing more will happen than a reduction in exports. But in a deficit Province like ours the case is entirely different and it would be unwise to take any risks. We have to carry on intensive procurement and district-wide rationing to feed our non-producers and partial producers, who would otherwise find it difficult to manage. It has to be remembered in this connexion that against the minimum requirement of 7.6. lakhs of tons of all foodgrains to carry us through till 31st October 1949, the Government of India have been able to allot to us only 4 lakhs of tons. The rice quota is only 80,000 tons. We are of course pressing the Government of India to increase our allotments but owing to various difficulties they may not be able, though willing, to accede to our request. Conservation of existing supplies and building up of stocks become therefore very important. I would also like to sound a note of warning in this connexion. Thouth we are short of cereals in this Province, we do produce other supplementary foods like groundnut, sweet potato, tapioca, etc. They have all got a food value whose importance cannot be exaggerated. This is not a purely theoretical suggestion. Till about 1945 very little of wheat was being consumed in the Province and wheat was an unfamiliar food. Wheat is no longer an unfamiliar food and we are not worse off/we produce in our own Province, and thereby reduce our cereal requirements, not only would it solve our food problem to carry a large extent but our general health would also improve and we could save the bulk of the money that we spend on imported grains.

/for it. In the same way if we could take a little more to what

THE GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN.

The Grow More Food Scheme was inauguarated as a war measure in 1943 as a four pronged drive to increase production of foodgrains in the Province. The scheme is attended/by three different departments of the Government. /to On the agricultural side, the Agriculture Department has been striving to increase production by schemes for soil and water conservation, tractor cultivation, distribution of composts, oil cakes, fertilizers and manners and distribution of improved seeds, control of crop pests, etc. The Irrigation Department has been attending to the constructior of irrigation projects designed to give quick results. The Revenue Department has been in charge of allotment of lands for temporary cultivation and subsidizing of sinking of wells to bring more dry lands under irrigation. The results achieved by each of these departments are summarized below:-

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

A Five-Year Plan of development relating to Agricultural Department was introduced last year. Under this plane the amount to be spent during 1948-49 is estimated at 1.19 crores on 16 schemes. It is expected that there will be an increase of production to the tune of 4 lakhs tons of foodgrains during the current year as a result of the schemes.

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

The Grow More Food Campaign was started in the year 1943 and since then every effort is being made to push on with the campaign by taking up small irrigation schemes which will yield quick results in the matter of additional production of foodgrains. Before 1947-48 there was no definite Grow More Food Programme but irrigation schemes were sanctioned as and when they were submitted by the Chief Engineer

for Irrigation. From the year 1943 onwards till the end of the year 1946-47 about 103 small irrigation schemes involving an extention of ayacut of 102,734 acres and provision of better irrigation facilities to the existing ayacut of 24,176 acres were sanctioned by the Government. At the instance of the Government of India a Five-Year Grow More Food Programme was prepared for the quinquennium 1947-48 to 1951-52, as a short term measure. This programme consists of about 300 small irrigation schemes, each costing less than Rs. 20 lakhs, spread over the whole Province and costing roughly Rs. 6 to 7 crores. This Programme is expected to bring under irrigation a total extent of about 250,000 acres. The portions of the programme relating to the individual years 1947-48 and 1948-49 have been approved by the Government of India. The following statement shows the amount allotted each year under the Grow More Food Campaign, the number, the cost of irrigation schemes sanctioned and expenditure incurred on them during each of the years from 1943-44:-

Year.	Amount allotted during the year. Rs.	Number of works sanctioned during the year. Rs.	Cost of works sanctioned during the year Rs.	Actual expenditure incurred during the year. Rs.	
1943-44 ..	2,03,000	26	42,08,108	18,69,285	
1944-45 ..	18,19,300	24	32,31,851	33,61,917	
1945-46 ..	11,02,300	8	6,73,759	14,94,370	
1946-47 ..	11,87,500	22	59,08,442	8,32,034	
1947-48 ..	13,43,700	70	67,41,000	16,60,747	
1948-49	26,07,300	*36	*94,00,000	*18,00,000	(roughly).
Total ..	82,63,100	186	3,01,73,160	1,10,18,353	

* These figures are only up to the end of February 1949 and do not include schemes sanctioned by the chief Engineer for Irrigation.

For 1949-50, a lump-sum provision of Rs. 70 lakhs has been made for irrigation schemes which have Grow More Food value. This course is adopted, because the schemes themselves will become ready throughout the year and the Government intend that they should be sanctioned as and when they come up without going through the usual formalities. A list of 205 schemes which are thus expected to come up for sanction is appended to the current budget estimate and their total cost is about Rs. 16.3 crores. This list is not final and may be added to, if found necessary, and if the expenditure in 1949-50 exceeds Rs. 70 lakhs, the additional amount will be found by re-appropriation.

The following statement shows the results anticipated and attained during each of the four years from 1944 to 1947 as a result of the execution of irrigation schemes in charge of Public Works Department:-

Year.	Targets aimed at.		Target attained.	
	Acreage.	Additional production in tons.	Acreage.	Additional production in tons.
1944	92,392.11	46,196	64,296.79	15,178.97
1945	114,063.45	57,032	98,083.20	19,527.66
1946	176,568.92	88,284	105,100.52	78,372.68
1947	154,161,91	77,081	110,141.40	66,781.04
1948	Figures not available.			

The above acreages have been achieved by major and minor irrigation schemes; and for the years 1948, 1949

and 1950, the rate of progress can normally be expected to be roughly 100,000 acres each year.

It will be seen from the above that very substantial increased due to the Grow More Food Campaign in regard to irrigation schemes have been achieved in the past, the bulk of it having occurred in the three deltas, viz., the Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery deltas, where water is largely available. Against this, we have to remember that some lands long under food crops have either been allowed to go fallow or to be cultivated with commercial crops. The reduction in the area under food crops thus brought about is perhaps the basis for the allegation made in certain quarters that the Grow More Food Campaign had not been a success. But the above figures will show that this campaign has actually been adding to the area under food crops whatever might have happendd on the other side.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

As stated above the Revenue department has been in charge of assignment of land for temporary cultivation and the well subsidy schemes. So far as temporary cultivation is concerned, an extent of 169,027 acres has been brought under cultivation up to 30th June 1948 since the beinning of Grow More Food Campaign. It is not possible, however, to assess the increase in production on these areas.

With regard to well subsidy scheme, four schemes were in operation up to March 1948, namely:-

(1) The old Scheme - It was introduced in March 1944 and was in operation till the end of March 1947 in II districts of the Province including the Ceded districts and 7 others having no regular irrigation systems. (Please see the statement at page 6 for particulars).

(2) Accelerated Scheme - It was introduced in February - March 1946 and was in force till 30th June 1948. The scheme was applied to all districts, except the Nilgiris. Under the scheme, a subsidy of 50 per cent of the cost, subject to a certain maximum, was given for the sinking of new wells and repair of old ones.

(3) The Ceded Districts (Modified) Scheme - This was specially for the benefit of the Ceded districts and it was introduced in June 1946. It was in force till 30th June 1948 and the question of giving further extension of time is under consideration. Under this scheme, a higher subsidy than that admissible under the preceding scheme was given.

(4) New Wells Subsidy Scheme - This Scheme came into effect on 1st March 1947 and was in operation till 31st March 1948. This Scheme also embraces the digging of new tanks and the repair of old ones in the districts of South Kanara and Malabar. Under this scheme, a subsidy of 50 per cent of the cost of sinking a new well, subject to a certain maximum (Rs. 300 or Rs. 500) depending on the locality, was given. It was laiddown that a well sunk under this scheme must undertake to grow more food crops for a period of three years. The amount of subsidy was advanced as a loan in the first instance and converted later into subsidy on the satisfactory completion of the well within the prescribed time, viz., 30th June 1949.

The question of giving subsidies for deepening of the wells which were dug by the ryots under the schemes referred to above and for the continuance of the well subsidy scheme in future years is under the consideration of the Government . The Government has also under consideration the scheme for mechanised well sinking which was put forward by a private Agricultural Engineer under which it is possible to sink a well in three days.

The following statement gives in one view the achievements under the different well subsidy schemes:-

Name of Scheme (for well subsidies)	No. of well for which subsidies have been paid. New wells.	Old wells.	Amount of subsidy paid	No. of wells completed. New	Old	Additional average brought under irrigation.	Additional quantity of food grains produced.
			Rs.			Acs.	Tons.
1. Old (1944) Scheme	*594		1,03,212	293	..	271	174
2- Accelerated Scheme (introduced in 1946)	61,609	30,721	2,32,88,543	45,698	26,112	90,111.61	48,564.56
III Ceded Districts Modified Schemes.	1,959	531	10,97,477	516	278	1,389.64	713.50
4. New Well Subsidy scheme, 1947-48.	46,846		1,62,99,265	13,040		10,697,88	3,319.2
5. New Well subsidy scheme 1948-49.	18,607		1,03,57,221	328		251.52	257.00
	1,22,615	31,252	5,11,45,718	59,875	26,390 /	1,02,721.65 /	53,028.26

160,867 86,265
*inclusive a new wells.

PRICES.

Since 1946, the Government have been extending a monetary inducement to the producers in order to encourage them to delivery all the surplus foodgrains to the Government procuring agents. In 1946-1947, the monetary inducement took the forms of bonus but when the question of fixing the prices for the Kharif year beginning from 1st November 1947 came up for consideration, the Government decided that it would be better to give a direct increase in the prices of foodgrains rather than pay bonuses. With the the approval of the Government of India they directed that the price should be increased by Rs. 2 per imperial maund of rice and Rs. 1 per imperial maund of millets. The increase in respect of paddy worked out to Rs. 1-6-0 per imperial maund. Very soon after the prices were fixed for the Kharif year 1947-1948, the Government of India decided upon a policy of progressive decontrol of Foodgrains and in pursuance of this policy, this Government also gave up intensive procurement in and the districts except in the surplus districts and the district of Malabar and the Nilgiris and statutory and rural rationing in a

major part of the Province. The result of the decontrol was however not to the advantage of the consumers in so far as prices were concerned, as the price began to increase week after week and month after month by leaps and bounds. The ruling prices in several parts of the Province registered an increase of 200 per cent and over during the de-control period. There was no doubt a stututory order, viz., the price control order fixing the ceiling prices at which paddy, rice, millets could be sold but there was a widespread violation of this order during the de-control period. In September 1948, however, the Government of India decided to go back to complete controls in view of the inflationary tendencies which were encouraged during the period of de-control. When the question of fixing remunerative prices for foodgrains for the kharif year commencing from 1st November 1948 came up for consideration the Government had to examine it not only with reference to the usual factor, viz, the increase in the cost of commodities other than the foodgrains that has taken place since last year and the increase in the cost of commodities other than the foodgrains that has taken place since last year and the increase in the cost of cultivation but also with reference to the inflationary price that prevailed during the de-control period. The Government of India considered the question of fixing the prices for foodgrains as an All-India question and decided that ordinarily prices should not be increased by more than 25 per cent over the prices that were in force prior to the inauguration of the policy of de-control, and that in special cases the increase may be 50 per cent provided their previous sanction was obtained. The Madras Government were convinced that the existing prices were quite inadequate and had therefore to be raised to the maximum limit and with the sanction of the Government of India they decided to give a further increase of Rs. 2 per maund of rice and Rs. 1 per mau of millets for the current kharif year 1948-49. The present prices represent an increase of 50 per cent over the prices prevailing in November 1947. While there is a general satisfaction in regard to this price increase, there is a stray criticism that the poor man's food has been made costly. But we cannot forget the fact that the producer has to be paid a remunerative price if we expect him to continue to produce. His cost of cultivation has gone up tremendously and his own cost of living has gone up and he must have a living wage.

PROTECTION OF FOODGRAINS

As the Government are handling very large quantities of foodgrains, both imported and locally procured, which have necessarily to be stored in godowns before issue to the conusmers for consumption, they have taken all precautionary steps necessary to prevent deterioration of the foodgrains while in storage. All the hygienic measures which have been recommended by the Government of India for proper storage of foodgrains in godowns as well as for the maintenance of godowns are being followed in respect of the godowns in charge of the Government and they are also enforced in respect of the godowns maintained by the private merchants who act on behalf of the Government. There is a staff of Assistant Entomologis who are required to constantly tour their jurisdiction, inspecting the stock of foodgrains in the Government godowns as well as private godowns and to report on the conditions of the stocks to the Collector and to the Board of Revenue. It is the function of the Assistant Entomologists and their storage assistants, etc., to take preventive measures such as treating the foodgrains bags with insecticides and fumigate the staff that may be found to have been attacked by weevils. The staff should also give proper

advice to the Civil Supplies officers with regard to the order in which the stocks stored in godowns should be issued, priority being given to the issue of stocks likely to deteriorate early. The Government have also issued instructions that the stocks of foodgrains which are not up to the standard and which require cleaning should be cleaned before they are issued for consumption. All these measures, however, could not prevent a certain amount of deterioration not only on account of the large stocks that have to be stored in the godowns but mainly on account of the fact that the stuff imported sometimes, arrives in a deteriorating condition.

We have also got a special inspectorate in the surplus districts. Their main functions are to pay frequent visits to the mills and satisfy themselves that the processing of rice including the soaking of paddy is being done properly. They are to examine the rice before despatch and reject any stuff that is bad. They draw samples from consignments, the samples are then analysed and cuts imposed with reference to a schedule, when the samples do not come up to the specifications. In spite of these precautions, I know there have been complaints about the quality. The complaints are partly due to the fact that we are not always able to give the kind of rice which people are accustomed to. Their requirements are kept in view but at particular seasons, mostly at the fag end of the harvest year, it is not possible to give the variety which each area requires and we are compelled to distribute raw rice in districts which need boiled rice and vice versa. But I can assure the Homee that all possible steps are being taken to meet the requirements. Some of the complaints are due to the fact that red rice (dalva) is distributed. It is not bad rice though its appearance is not attractive; but the point is we cannot afford to throw it away when we are short of foodgrains.

A Nutrition Officer is also attached to the Food Department,. He is constantly on tour under the direction of the Secretary to Government, Food Department, and the Commissioner of Civil Supplies inspecting areas wherefrom reports of scarcity have been received and generally examining the nutritional condition of the population, especially among the vulnerable groups. He also inspects ration shops and pays special attention to rural areas. Necessary action is being taken by the Government to set right the defects that may be brought to their notice as a result of his inspection. Generally speaki speaking his notes of inspection show that the health of the people has been generally fair.

TRANSPORT

Very large movements have to take place from the surplus districts after the main harvest as the procurement is then at its peak. It has been our experience that railways are not always in a position to supply the number of wagons that are actually required to move the foodgrains procured in these surplus districts without any accumulation whatever, in view of the various other demands made on them for wagons. There is an Assistant Commissioner for Movements attached to the Board of Revenue who acts as a liaison officer between the railways and the civil Supplies Department and arranges for the supply of the maximum number of wagons possible by the railways for quick movement of foodgrains. In spite of these arrangements it is found necessary to charter ships for movement of procured stocks especially from the Circars.

The tempo of procurement, especaially in the months of February to April in these districts is so high that railways could not afford to place adequate number of wag ns at the Government's disposal. Whenever such ships are employed for movement, the cost of transport becomes higher than the cost of transport by the usually been borne as subsidy by the Government. Besides railway transport, the Government maintain a fleet of lorries for transport of foodgrains especially in Vizagapatam district and in Kiishna district, in the former case for import of the quantity allotted from Orissa and in the latter for transport of procured foodgrains from godowns to railway station or to the ports. In the other districts also, a number of lorries are maintained with reference to the actual requirements to move the quantities that are imported into the districts to the centres of consumption

CONTROLS - PRINCIPLES AND POLICY.

~~has been re-The~~ system of controls over foodgrains which has been re-introduced in this province is the same as the one that was in force prior to de-control, that is to say, there is an intensive procurement of foodgrains, i.e., paddy, rice and millets in all the districts of the Province including the deficit districts. Intensive procurement means the procurementof all the surplus available with each producer with reference to the production of the crop during the year inquestion and the quantity that is required by him fot his own domestic consumption at the rate of 1 lb per adult per day and for seed and payment of wages in kind. Owing to the numerous complaints received by Government that these allowances are not adequately given, they have issued directions that supply officers should take care to see that the demand should be fixed only after providing for all these items of expenditure and that the scale of allowances should be increased this year wherever necessary so as not to exceed 25 per cent of the scale of that was in force last year. The estimates made by the village officers are overchecked by higher officers. In spite of this, it is possible that here and there there may be mistakes in calculation but all complaints in regard to these are being looked into and appropriate remedies gigen. As there was an extensive failure of millet crop owing to the failure of south-west monsoon in 1948, the Go-vernment have also directed that there should be no procurement of millets from holders of unirrigated dry holdings of 10 acres and less.

As a corollary to the intensive procurement scheme, the Government have also directed re-imposition of statutory rationing in all the municipal towns and of informal rationing in the rural areas except in surplus districts. Under the statutory ~~raining~~ rationing scheme, cards are issued to all though rations are to be issued only to those who are in need of supply of foodgrains. The scale of rations has now been increased to 12 oz. overa with effect from 6th March 1949 consisting of 8 oz. of rice plus 2 oz. of semolina plus 2 oz. of semolina plus 2 oz. of wheat, semolina or other foodgrains. In the rural areas rationed under the informal rationing system, cards ar issued to non-producers and partial producers, who stand in need of rations and the scale of rations supplied to them is the same as in respect of the carholders in the municipal areas. In surplus districts, where there is no regular rationing, non-producers and partial produders are supplies with necessary quantity of foodgrains through a netwrok of retail shops.

The complaints often made against the intensive procurement scheme is that the procureing authorities harass ryots to deliver their entire production without giving them adequate allowances for their consumption of for seed purposes or forthe servants they have to employ. Many such complaints on enquiry are found to be not correct. Strict instnuctions ~~on enquiry~~ as stated above have, however, been issued that the demand should be worked out only after making adequate allowances for these purposes as contemplated by the rules and officials employed on procurement work have been asked to avoid all unnecessary hardship to the ryots.

THE PRODUCER-CUM-CONSUMER CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

~~The~~ To implement the new policy of the Government of associating non-officials in the work of procurement and distribution of food-grains, to stamp out profiteering and blackmarketing and to create a socio-economic fabric based on co-operative principles, the Government approved in 1946 a new scheme of procurement and distribution of foodgrains in Malabar district by organizing producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies and entrusting these items of work to them. One hundred and severn co-operative societies were thus formed in Malabar district in 1946-47. The entire work of procurement and distribution of foodgrains in so far as Malabar district is concerned was entrusted to these societies and private agencies were entirely eliminated. The progress in procurement made by these societies since their formation is as follows:-

Year	Quantity procured in tons.	
	Rice	Millets.
1946-47 ..	92,614	50
1947-48 ..	63,213	16
1948-49 up to 26th February 1949.	35,085	Nil.

The quantity procured by private merchants immediately before the formation of the societies, i.e., in 1945-46 was 68,423 tons of rice and 71 tons of millets. Thus the societies had not done badly in so far as procurement is concerned. Recently, however, there have been several complaints about the working of the some of these societies and allegation of corruption, mismanagement, etc., have also been made. These are being carefully investigated by the Government and necessary action will be taken.

With reference to the experience gained in Malabar, the then Government decided to extend the scheme of producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies to the Circar districts also. About 165 societies were formed in the four Circar districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Guntur and Krishna and they were entrusted with the work of procurement in the place of millets and private merchants. This was at the end of 1946. Very soon, however, it was discovered that the work of these societies did not come up to expectations and there was a serious danger of procurement lagging behind and the unprocured foodgrains being sumuggled out of the Province. The Government had, therefore, to reconsider the decision to entrust procurement to these societies. They cancelled the procurement licences given to these societies in April 1947 and re-entrusted the work to the millers. Since then, the societies have been in a state of hybernation. A Committee under the presidentship of Sri Ramalinga Chettiyar was constituted to enquiry into the working of these societies and to recommend as to how best these societieds should be utilized. With reference to the Committee's recommendation, it was decided to give procurement work to a few societies

/True Copy/

in East Godavari and West Godavari districts. But the societies expressed their inability to compete with the millers and their procurement licences had, therefore, to be cancelled. In November 1948, however, a representation was made by the leading co-operation and others that the societies should be given procurement work for the new procurement season beginning from December 1948. The Government considered these representations and decided to entrust the work of procurement on monopoly basis in two taluks of East Godavari district, viz., Kakinada and Ramachandrapur, to the producer-cum-consumer societies and co-operative marketing societies functioning in those taluks. These societies started work on 15th December 1948 and up to 12th February 1949, they have procured 17,034 tons of paddy which equals to 12,434 tons of rice. The societies were feeling feeling certain difficulties in the initial stages owing to lack of finance and the inadequate allowances provided for gunnies, etc., but these points have been reconsidered by the Government and favourable orders have been passed. To enable the societies to function succedfully, the Government have given a loan of Rs. 15 lakhs to finance the procurement operation. They expect that the procurement work by these societies will improve in the near future.

/True Copy/

SUPERINTENDENT

SP/8.7.

Madras Record Office.

SPECIAL Secretary, Food:

I want you to get ready a full and detailed note to enable me to reply to the criticisms that are made with regard to food in the general Budget discussions in both the Houses (Assembly and Council). The points to be covered are:

1. The position of Madras Province - Whether it can stand by itself or should depend on the Government of India forits food deficit. The possiblity of our not being able to take the same standpoint as C.P. should be clearly brough out.

2. The Grow More Food Campaign shall have to be explained by mentioning all the provisions that have been made for new projects and for minor irrigation works and the immediate relief they we may get with facts and figures, so that the early realisation of the schemes may be made more plain If possible the actual results of well-digging should be fully given, particularly the actual realisation of foodgrains in terms of wells dug if possible should be ascertained.

3. Price of foodgrains should be fully explained so that the inducement to the producer has got to be brought out in the price fixation. Precautions taken by Government for ensuring against deterioration of food stuffs and the constant inspection made by our Nutrition Officers may also have to be mentioned.

4. The transport facilities that are given in various areas to see to the quick movement of foodgrains have also to be adequately explained.

5. A note on the principles of control that is being adopted. Informal rationing has got to be explained properly. Emphasis should be made of the provisions made for the producers with regard to getting their food-stuffs for their use, for their servants employed in production and for seeds.

6. A note on the working of the P.C.C. Societies in Malabar and in East Godavari districts and other places may also be prepared.

The above note may be submitted to me before the 9th just before the voting on demands beings in the Assembly which will be after the 10th. But in the Upper House there is no voting on demands but the general discussion will begin from the 5th instant onwards and will last for 4 days. The last day for replying to the debate in the Upper House will be on the 9th. This note will be useful to me in the Assembly subsequently when voting on demands takens place. So a critically considered report has got to be prepared and I want this matter to be attended to as early as possible.

(Sd) . . . . .
Minister for Food.

Sectional Notes are put up below on the six points suggested by the Hon'ble Minister (Food).

(Sd) . . . . . .

I have approved the notes with necessary modifications. Please get two copies typed by noon tomorrow.

(Sd) . . .

Two typed copies are put up below.

(Sd) . . . . .

7.3.49.

Hon'ble Minister (FOOD)

Hon'ble Minister has made the spgech File returnd to section.

(Sd) . . . . . .
9.3.49.

G.O. Ms. No. 244 Dated 11-3-1949.

Abstract:

Food position of Madras Presidency - Past and Present - Speech by Hon'ble Minister Food in Legislative Council on 9-3-1949 - Papers Recorded.

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/True Copy/

SUPERINTENDENT

SP/8.7. Madras Record Office.

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